



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '99: A LAST LOOK AT L.A.'S ATTEMPT TO REFORM THE OLD CHARTER. ELECTION A TOSS UP.

Editor's note: On the record, political insiders say that L.A. City Charter Amendment #1 (charter reform) is a toss up. *Off the record*, these same insiders think it is possible that charter reform could lose. Here's our final update & analysis, with L.A.'s runoff election set for June 8th...

...The *insiders* are hedging their bets. And there are very few *insiders* who think charter reform is a slam dunk winner. Most of those who said the contest was too tight are hoping charter reform will prevail – if for no other reason than to give 9 councilmembers and organized labor kick in the rear for opposing charter reform after first leading the proponents on and then pulling a *double-cross*. Those *insiders* who think charter reform is a loser often cite the negatives of the highly controversial neighborhood councils and the increased power of the mayor under this new plan...

...The fact is, this election is very difficult to predict because few really know for sure how many voters will actually cast ballots – and who those voters will be. But there are a few things we do know: 1) both the *L.A. Times* and the *L.A. Daily News* have editorialized in FAVOR of charter reform; so has KNX Radio; 2) L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan has picked up the pace of his personal campaigning in support of reform; and 3) the level of bitterness between charter reform supporters and opponents has escalated beyond the hope of quick repair. It's really nasty...

...There's no dispute that *Citizens for Charter Reform* have outraised and outspent the opponents, *L.A. Taxpayers for Good Govt.* The YES side has been pounding away with cable tv ads and a big mail program. And by the time you read this, YES on #1 will be

finishing a major radio buy. The YES side also has phone banks running, contacting the 210,000 likely voter universe in this election. But the NO side has mail too (and are on 5 of 7 slates). The key question for the NO side is whether union households will turn out in large numbers to oppose charter reform...

...P.S. What happens if charter reform fails? Will Mayor Richard Riordan make second run in March or November of 2000? Our sources tend to think the answer is YES. If YES, will the new charter reform proposal be more radical than the one now before voters? Perhaps. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: GUN CONTROL BILLS IN BOTH WASHINGTON DC & SACTO MOVING AHEAD.

Editor's note: Advocates of tougher gun control laws continue to move their agenda forward on three levels: in Washington DC (Congress); in Sacramento (State Legislature); and locally with lawsuits filed against gun makers. Here's our update & analysis...

...DC first. Back on May 20th the U.S. Senate passed S254; the Juvenile Crime Bill, which included a number of gun control amendments: 1) background checks at gun shows; 2) safety trigger locks; and 3) a ban on the import of high capacity ammo clips. This last item was U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's amendment. This week (June 7th), the U.S. House is supposed to begin its work on HR1501, its version of the S254. Everything in S254 is expected to be included – plus a few other items...

...Its these other items which has Demos and gun control supporters (read that as Handgun Control Inc) worried. For example, U.S. Rep. Bob Barr(R-GA), has introduced the Firearms Heritage Protection Act.

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There are about 9 cities in Calif. (including L.A., S.F., Sacto, Oakland, West Hollywood, Compton), who are suing gun makers in civil court. The cities are using a state law banning “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices.” It’s a different approach than that used against the tobacco companies and it might work. But Barr’s amendment would **ban** all civil liability lawsuits against gun companies. Sources don’t know if Barr has the clout to get his amendment approved, especially in light of Littleton, CO. The GOP has to be careful of these “poison pill” amendments. They could backfire...

...In Sacramento, there are at least 9 gun bills which are still very much alive and moving forward. Our sources believe that Gov. Gray Davis(D) will sign many of these bills IF they reach his desk. Here is a brief rundown:

◆ **AB 202** – This is the “handgun a month” bill by Assemblyman Wally Knox(D-West L.A.). It has passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate...

◆ **SB 23** – This is the revised assault weapons bill by State Sen. Don Perata(D-Alameda). It recently passed the Senate on a 23-13 vote. Odds are good that it will be passed in some form and signed by Gov. Davis...

◆ **SB 15 & AB 505** – These are the competing bills aimed at restricting cheap handguns (Saturday Night Specials). AB 505 by Assemblyman Rod Wright(D-L.A.) recently passed the lower house on a 54-10 vote. 26 GOP members voted for 505. SB 15 by Sen. Richard Polanco(D-L.A.) passed the upper house some time ago and is now in the Assembly Public Safety Cmt. A real show down, with a fight over the treatment of used handguns...

◆ **SB 29** – This technical bill will assist the Calif. DOJ in upgrading its computer system for faster and more complete handgun registration. This bill by Sen. Steve Peace(D-El Cajon) recently passed on a 24-9 vote...

◆ **AB 491** – This is a bill by Assemblyman Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) which raises from a misdemeanor to a *wobbler* the illegal carrying of a concealed handgun by a person with no criminal record – if that handgun is not registered. This bill is identical to Scott’s AB 304 (1997) and Burton’s AB 2469 (1993). The real thrust here is to make sure that AG Bill Lockyer’s DOJ has good registration records on handguns...

◆ **SB 130** – This is the trigger safety lock bill by State Sen. Tom Hayden(D-West L.A.). It passed on a 25-9 vote...

◆ **AB 988** – This bill stops local governments from issuing licenses to individuals who want to sell guns out of their homes. The author is Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal(D-Long Beach). His bill passed the lower house May 13 on a 48-24 vote...

◆ **AB 295** – This bill by Assemblywoman Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro) requires gun show promoters to be licensed by the CA DOJ. It passed the Assembly on a 45-22 vote...

...FYI: The guy to keep your eyes on is Demo Assemblyman Rod Wright of L.A. He’s a pro-gun Demo and he’s likely to go toe-to-toe with Jack Scott, Don Perata and Richard Polanco – all Demos too. There will be some very hot words traded between Wright and these others before this battle is finished. And in the middle of this brouhaha are Demo gun gurus Bill Cavala & Irwin Nowick, who are trying to find common ground at the direct request of Gov. Davis. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '99: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.

Editor’s note: Here’s our final update on the L.A. City runoff election set for June 8th...

◆ **7th District** – This is the council district left vacant when Richard Alarcon(D) was elected to the State Senate. In the primary, *wunderkind* Alex Padilla won 48% and now faces an under-funded Corinne Sanchez, who got 24.5% in the April primary. Padilla has many of the key endorsements: Mayor Richard Riordan, L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn, plus Valley area councilmembers Joel Wachs and Hal Bernson. Labor + the L.A. Co. Demo Party are also backing Padilla, as is U.S. Rep. Howard Berman(D). It’s overkill time. Sanchez has some good endorsements too (L.A. Co. Sups. Zev Yaroslavsky & Gloria Molina, plus Councilmembers Laura Chick), but simply doesn’t have the \$\$\$ to compete. Padilla may out-mail Sanchez 4-to-1. The big loser, however, is Alarcon, who has endorsed Sanchez. FYI: Alarcon’s soon-to-be ex-wife, Corina, also has endorsed Padilla. As for the 26-year-old former aide to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, sources say if he’s elected June 8th he becomes an immediate rising star...

◆ **10th District** – Very few sources think incumbent Councilman Nate Holden will lose to The Rev. Madison Shockley. Holden won 49.96% in the primary vs. only about 20% for Shockley. As one source told **Calpeek**, “If Nate doesn’t win, there’ll be a nuclear melt down.” The *L.A. Times* hates Holden and has endorsed Shockley, but that doesn’t mean much in the 10th CD. The one thing which could still hurt Holden: that questionable endorsement by the late Tom Bradley continues to make ink...

● **14th District** – This is the one council runoff where Calpeek sources remain puzzled. Some call it a *crap shoot* between political consultant Victor Griego and L.A. Co. Dep. DA Nick Pacheco. Griego recently won the endorsement of the *L.A. Times* and most (but not all) of organized labor has their money on Griego. Still there is that troubling question of *carpetbagging* which continues to hound Griego. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some of the key U.S. House contests in 2000...

☒ **42nd CD** – While veteran Demo U.S. Rep. George Brown of Colton continues to do well after open heart surgery, last year's GOP candidate, Elia Pirozzi (who lost to Brown 55% vs. 40%), is making noises once again. GOP Sources say he's just waiting to see whether San Berdu Sup. Court Judge Linda Wilde(R) will once again be a candidate. Our sources think she will be...

☒ **49th CD** – Our sources say that Demo Assemblywoman Susan Davis of San Diego WILL make the run against GOP U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray of Imperial Beach. But Davis will have stiff competition from Demo attorney Wade Sanders, who is a decorated Vietnam vet and a former Navy Dep. Asst. Secretary. He's raising money and has a number of key allies in DC. Another name to surface is Demo attorney Craig Barckus. Back to Sanders: He has issued a "put up" or "shut up" challenge to Bilbray on campaign finance reform legislation which is stalled in the House. Sanders says Bilbray should sign the *discharge petition* to bring the bipartisan Shays-Meehan bill up for a vote. Friends of Wade Sanders (619)232-2234...

☒ **27th CD** – It's now official: GOP U.S. Rep. James Rogan of Glendale has announced that he will seek a 3rd term. Rogan made the official announcement over the Memorial Day weekend. Rogan's formal declaration comes about a month after he decided **not** to run against U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) in 2000. Many, but not all sources, think Rogan did the right thing, because DiFi would have mashed him. And even though the DCCC has Rogan on its target list and will be pouring big bucks to help State Sen. Adam Schiff of Burbank, Rogan stands a better chance of winning reelection than in a Statewide contest...

☒ **46th CD** – So B-1 Bob Dornan(R) is no longer in the picture, but Demo U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez of Santa Ana won't be getting a free ride in 2000 – far from it. GOP sources say Gloria Matta Tuchman, who ran unsuccessfully against Delaine Eastin last year for Supt. of Public Instruction, will be a GOP candidate in the 46th CD. She's got name ID; probably has the contacts to raise a hefty war chest; and like Sanchez, she's Latina...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on key legislative races for 2000...

☒ **51st AD Update** – We left a few names out in last report about this open seat now held by Assemblyman Ed Vincent(D-Inglewood), who is running for the State Senate next year. Add to the list of potential Demo candidates Inglewood Councilmembers Jerome Horton and Jose Fernandez, and water board member Tyrone Smith. Names which we mentioned in our May 10th issue included Hawthorne Mayor Larry Guidi, former Inglewood Councilman Curren Price and Inglewood School Bd. member Thomasina Reed...

☒ **17th AD Update** – On the GOP side in the battle to replace Demo Assemblyman Mike Machado, farmer Rick Veldstra(R) has hired McElroy Communications to run his campaign. Veldstra's GOP rival, Jerry Machado(no relation to Mike), hired Gilliard/Blanning...

☒ **1st SD Update** – Throw in a 3rd GOP candidate in the battle to replace Sen. Tim Leslie(R), who is *termed out*. While most of the attention has been focused on former Assemblyman Bernie Richter(R-Chico) and current Assemblyman Rico Oller(R-San Andreas), the other candidate is agri businessman Jim Johnston of Woodland, who has never held elective office. Rumor is that Johnston has *deep pockets*. Johnston announced on May 6th and is still interviewing consultants. He's a moderate compared to Oller and Richter. Oller has hired Steve Presson, while Richter's consultant is Wayne Johnson. Funny thing is that if Oller and Richter don't stop bashing each other, Johnston could slide in and win the GOP primary *a la Marilyn Brewer*...

☒ **19th SD Update** – Former Assemblyman Nao Takasugi(R-Oxnard) has decided **not** to run for Sen. Cathie Wright's 19th SD post next year. That leaves

the GOP field with two: Assemblyman Tom McClintock(R-Northridge) and Ventura Co. Sup. Judy Mikels. Sources tell **Calpeek** that Takasugi did some polling and it showed him taking significant support from both McC and Mikels. If that's the case, then his endorsement could be very important...

☒ **67th AD Update** – In the battle of endorsements, former Assemblyman Dennis Brown(R) claims support from former State Sen. Marian Bergeson(R), while Brown's GOP primary rival Jim Righeimer claims support from Grover Norquist, leader of Americans for Tax Reform. Norquist was a supporter of Prop. 226 in '98...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Connell Looks at L.A. Mayor's Race** - Sources confirm that Calif. Controller Kathleen Connell(D) is indeed exploring the possibility of running for L.A. Mayor in 2001. She served as L.A. City Housing Director under the late Tom Bradley from 1977 to 1983, so Connell has that linkage to local government. Politically, she's a new Demo – centrist. Her big problem: she's made lots of enemies in Sacto and doesn't seem to care about forging new alliances. But Connell is a good fundraiser and has done well in two Statewide elections. We'll see what happens...

■ **Taxpayer Group Sues Gov. Davis** – The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.(HJTA) filed a lawsuit June 1st in the CA Supreme Court (L.A. office) charging that Gov. Gray Davis(D) is violating the Calif. Constitution by mediating Prop. 187 in secret. The lawsuit says Davis' secret mediation violates the "right of the people to a public trial." The lawsuit asks the court to issue a peremptory writ – forcing Davis to withdraw from the mediation and pursue the 187 appeal through the appellate process. FYI: Davis has appointed former U.S. Appeals Court Judge Shirley Hufstедler as special counsel for the State in the mediation of Prop. 187...

■ **Same Day Voter Registration Oked** – By a 48 to 25 vote, the Assembly on June 2nd approved AB 1094 to allow same-day voter registration. The bill is by Rules Cmt. chair Bob Hertzberg(D-Van Nuys). If signed into law, Calif. would be the 7th state to have this

kind law. Voters would have to present proof of residence and their ballots would be set aside until their residence is confirmed. Stay tuned...

UPDATE ON CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS' DIRECTORY

For those consultants who have **not** returned the questionnaires for the Millennium edition of **Calpeek's** Directory, let's get them in ASAP. **Calpeek** recently mailed a 3rd reminder. If you're a consultant and haven't gotten a questionnaire, better call **Calpeek** NOW. The **advertising deadline** is June 18th. Any questions, call (310)659-0205 or email to calpeek@aol.com...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● For those who are wondering what happened to GOP media consultant Steve Powell, he's working as a producer at Granite Bridge Studio in San Diego. (619)550-4800 ext. 338...

● Dave Puglia has joined the Sacto office of APCO Associates as a VP. For those with short memories, Puglia was Dan Lungren's cmp. mgr. in '98...

● Attorney Angela Johnson Meszaros has been hired as environmental civics program director by the L.A. office of the CA League of Conservation Voters...

● Charlton Research Co. has moved its DC office to 1612 "K" St., #800, Washington DC 20006. The new ☎(202)530-0010. Kevin Schulman is the DC mgr...

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